

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 111523Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2548

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 7319

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XH, PL

SUBJECT: RADIO FREE EUROPE MONITOR REPORT

REF WARSAW A-372, DECEMBER 6, 1974

1. THE EMBASSY HAS SENT VIA REPAIR ITS EVALUATION OF RFE POLISH-SERVICE BROADCASTING FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1-NOVEMBER 15. THIS AIRGRAM SHOULD ARRIVE IN THE DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 11. IT ALSO CONTAINS THE EVALUATION OF ONE COMPLETE DAY OF BROADCASTING WHICH, ON OCTOBER 8, I TOLD YOU WE PLANNED TO MAKE.

2. I WANT HERE TO COMMENT ON THE POLISH SERVICE'S OUTPUT DURING THE GIEREK VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OCTOBER 6-13. I WAS TOLD THAT, PURSUANT TO WARSAW'S T-5603 OF SEPTEMBER 14, THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECOMMENDED TO RFE THIS DESIRABILITY OF EXERCISING SPECIAL CARE IN CONNECTION WITH THE GIEREK VISIT TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH U.S. POLICY INTERESTS AND TO ENSURE OBSERVANCE OF RFE'S SELF-PRESCRIBED GUIDELINES. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING NOW TO LOOK BACK TO SEE PRECISELY WHAT THE DEPARTMENT ASKED BE DONE AND PRECISELY WHAT RFE'S IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THAT REQUEST WAS. THIS EXERCISE WILL NOW HAVE ONLY HISTORIC VALUE, SINCE MUCH OF THE OUTPUT OF THE POLISH SERVICE DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 7-13 RAN DIRECTLY COUNTER TO U.S. POLICY (NOT TO MENTION RFE'S OWN
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GUIDELINES). THE RESULT WAS THAT, FAR FROM SOUNDING LIKE A

RESPONSIBLE SUBSTITUTE FOR A FREE PRESS IN THIS COUNTRY, THE POLISH SERVICE DURING THIS PERIOD SPOKE AS THE RADIO STATION OF AN EMIGRE OR EXILE ORGANIZATION, AS THE VOICE OF A POLITICAL PARTY OR GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE -- IN OTHER WORDS, IT SOUNDED PRECISELY LIKE THAT WHICH THE EISENHOWER COMMISSION'S REPORT SAID IT TOOK PAINS TO AVOID. OF COURSE, WE HAD KNOWN FROM HIS LETTERS TO THE EDITORS OF POLONIA PUBLICATIONS IN THE U.S. THAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE POLISH SERVICE DOES NOT ACCEPT THE POLICY OF DETENTE. IF HIS SUPERIORS TRANSMITTED TO HIM THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS, IT WOULD APPEAR FROM THE BROADCASTS CITED IN THE EMBASSY'S REFAIR THAT HE CHOSE TO IGNORE THEM AND WAS ABLE TO DO SO WITHOUT AN EFFECTIVE CHECK BEING ADMINISTERED BY HIS SUPERIORS.

3. WHEN YOU SUBMIT THE DEPARTMENT'S EVALUATION OF RFE TO THE COMPETENT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, YOU WILL HAVE TO NOTE THAT MUCH OF THE OUTPUT OF THE POLISH SERVICE FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 7-13 WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH US POLICY. EUR/EE HAS IN ITS FILES OTHER CRITICAL COMMENTS FROM THE EMBASSY FOR CY1974.

4. I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT, DESPITE ITS FAILINGS, RFE'S POLISH SERVICE IS A MAJOR ASSET, BOTH ACTUALLY AND POTENTIALLY, AND THAT THE FAILINGS TO WHICH WE HAVE POINTED ARE THE RESULT OF INEFFICIENT MANAGEMENT. THERE IS NO REASON WHY, UNDER EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT, RFE'S POLISH SERVICE SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO PLAY THE VALUABLE ROLE IT HAS, BY AND LARGE, PLAYED IN THE PAST, AND DO SO WITHOUT CONTRADICTING US POLICY OR VIOLATING THE VERY SENSIBLE AND ADEQUATE RESTRAINTS WHICH RFE HAS ADOPTED FOR ITSELF AND TO WHICH THE MANAGEMENT RECURRENTLY AVOWS ITS DEDICATION. IN THE REFAIR, WE HAVE CITED OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS FROM THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW INCLUDING SOME FROM THE PERIOD OCTOBER 7-13 ON GIEREK'S US VISIT WHICH DO NOT CONTRADICT US POLICY OR VIOLATE THE GUIDELINES. IN OTHER WORDS, THE POLISH SERVICE CAN DO THE JOB RIGHT, IF RFE IS CAPABLE OF SEEING TO IT THAT IT RESPECTS US POLICY AND RFE'S OWN GUIDELINES. IT IS THIS FAILURE THAT IS DISTURBING.

DAVIES

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